

V. REMARKS

As indicated in the Office Action, claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. The features of claim 5 have been incorporated into claim 1 and 7 and, as a result, Independent claims 1 and 7 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 4, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by McKoy (U.S. Patent No. 6,354,223). As indicated immediately above, the allowable features of claim 5 are now incorporated into Independent claims 1 and 7. It is respectfully submitted that Independent claims 1 and 7 are allowable over the applied art.

Claims 4 and 6 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over McKoy in view of Yamada (EP 1,172,273). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 8 depends from claim 7 and includes all of the features of claim 7. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 8 is allowable at least for the reason claim 7 is allowable as well as for the features it recites.

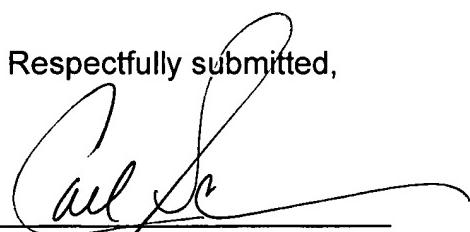
Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


David T. Nikaido
Reg. No. 22,663

Carl Schaukowitch
Reg. No. 29,211

Date: June 30, 2006

RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC
1233 20th Street, N.W. Suite 501
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: (202) 955-3750
Fax: (202) 955-3751
Customer No. 23353

Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal

DC238938.DOC